

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, and 14 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. The basis for the amendments can be found, for example, at page 8, lines 16-20, page 8, line 35 to page 9, line 15, and page 11, lines 4-28.

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite. While Applicants do not agree with this assertion, claims 1 and 8 are amended to further prosecution. In the amendments, the optional substituents are further described. In view of this amendment, Applicants submit that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 4, 6, and 14 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by WO97/31907 ("the 907 application"). The office action (pages 3-4) cites the compound on line 17 of page 13 as overlapping with the instant claims. Amended claim 1, however, is not directed to a composition where "Het" is a 4-oxo-4H-chromene-3-yl group. As such, the compound recited on page 13 of the cited reference does not overlap with the instant claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

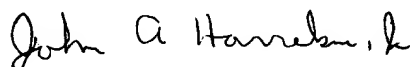
Furthermore, it is further noted that the compounds of the 907 application are said to be PPAR-gamma agonists that are useful in the treatment of conditions such as hyperglycemia, dyslipidemia and diabetes. The instant compounds are potent and selective inhibitors of alpha 4 integrins that are useful in the treatment of immune and inflammatory disorders. Because the compounds occupy different technical fields, the instantly claimed compounds would not be obvious to one skilled in the art.

DOCKET NO.: CELL-0145
Application No.: 09/964,161
Office Action Dated: May 5, 2004

PATENT

It is believed all of the claims presently before the Examiner patentably define the invention over the prior art and are otherwise in condition for ready allowance. An early Office Action to that effect is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: August 5, 2004

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